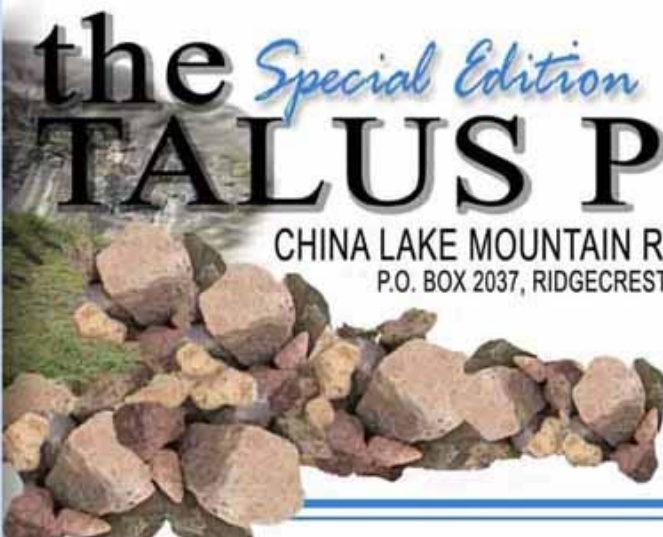


the *Special Edition* TALUS PILE

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP
P.O. BOX 2037, RIDGECREST, CA 93556

Issue 141, April 2008

CLMRG "geared up" for the Mojave Primitive Encampment



On April 9, Linda Finco, Dave Miles, Al Green, Bud Gates, Eileen Loughran, Bill Stratton, and Tom Sakai set up and tested the highline for the Girl Scouts in Indian Joe Canyon for the annual Mojave Primitive Encampment. An impressive 35 Girl Scouts got across safely, as well as 10 adult advisers.

The Girl Scouts had a great time on this year's Mojave Primitive Encampment and gave all CLMRG members a commemorative t-shirt adorned with white lettering on a red shirt.

The CLMRG team committed 45 hours of donated time and drove 120 vehicle miles.



CLMRG is funded in part by the
United Way of the
Indian Wells Valley.

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Check our web page at clmrg.org, or the California Region's web page at crmra.org.



2008 Committees

**=Chair*

FIRST-AID

Linda Finco *
Debbie Breitenstein
Eric Toler

EQUIPMENT

Werner Hueber *
Al Green
Paul Deruiter
Dave Doerr
Eileen Loughran
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Mike Renta
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Dan Bishop, Mike Myers,
Linda Finco

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Bob Huey
Eileen Loughran
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Mark Your Calendar!

The China Lake Mountain Rescue Group 50th Anniversary celebration will be held on **October 25.**

Banquet will be held on Saturday, October 25 at the Kerr McGee Center in Ridgecrest. Festivities will begin with a no-host cocktail hour followed by dinner.

The evening will highlight several speakers who will share their experiences with CLMRG and note the advances in search and rescue techniques and technology over the years.

Please contact Carol Burge at carolburge@gmail.com for information or to submit your address for an invitation.

Past members, summer class participants and guests are invited.

Operation 2006-08 Incident Mt. Whitney trail 22 September 2006 Leader: Bob Rockwell

I was on a day climb of Mt. Whitney, and caught up with Mike McAuliffe from New York. After summiting together (3 PM), he mentioned that he didn't have a headlamp. I agreed to stay with him for the descent.

Just below Trailside Meadow, it turned dark. There was no moon. At Outpost Camp we encountered a party of two, stopped. One had twisted his knee and they also had no headlamps. With me in front showing the way, we continued down. Soon thereafter, we caught up with another party—this time four people, two headlamps (one with low batteries), and one sprained ankle.

None of these people had climbed Mt. Whitney before, so didn't know the trail. Our progress was slow because of the darkness, and we had to stop often for the injured people to rest.

We got to Whitney Portal just before midnight, and all went our separate ways.

Operation 2006-09 Alert South Fork Kern River September 25, 2006 Leader: Mike Myers

I was notified by a private citizen that two Ridgecrest men were two days overdue on a fishing hike from Kennedy Meadows to the Bloomfield Ranch along the South Fork of the Kern River. They were Charles "Butch" Zissos and Eric Miller. They were due out Saturday night, and it was now Monday morning.

I contacted Zissos' wife, Dr. Hope Wildenberg, and explained that she needed to contact the sheriff. She informed me that she had already called the Kern County Sheriff, who told her to contact the Tulare County Sheriff, which she did, and filed a missing persons report. She was under the assumption that Tulare had already begun a search for the missing hikers.

I called the Tulare Sheriff's Office and they gave me the phone number of Deputy Sgt. Alan Knight, the on-scene Point of Contact. He informed me that he could use all the resources he could get. When asked about requesting resources through OES, he said that would have to be done through his SAR Coordinator, Sgt Randy Semet. I called Sgt Semet, who explained that he did not want to commit any ground resources until he could get a helo to fly over and check it out. According to him, the hikers were overdue based on their own schedule, which was too enthusiastic based on the terrain. He said that their trip was realistically a minimum of four days, vs. the two days they had planned. He agreed that putting us on alert was a reasonable thing to do, and that he would call back after he got a report from his air support. I then put out a pager call to all CLMRG members.

I contacted Kern Sheriff Sgt Rhodes, who put me in touch with Sgt Plank, the on-duty SAR Coordinator. I informed him of what was going on, and he confirmed the Alert call pending an OES notification. I contacted Mary Schmierer and she coordinated the callout.

After work, Dave Miles and I met in the Hut and I called Sgt. Knight. He knew that the OES response was imminent, so we spent a considerable amount of time putting together a search strategy for Tuesday morning. His Tulare Team was going to enter the S. Fork from Long Valley, hike to the river, and check for sign. If it was confirmed that they had passed by, his team would head down river. Our team was going to head up river from the Bloomfield Ranch until we met. Tulare had two helos and a CHP plane fly the canyon several times, and saw no sign of anyone. Later that evening, I received a call from Sgt Plank giving me the OES number, who said that IWV SAR would also be available. Shortly thereafter, I was notified that friends of Butch and Eric had made contact with them via FSR radios, and they were about three miles north of the Ranch. They were in good health and hiking out. Our mission was then terminated.

Debrief of Eric and Butch: I had lunch with Eric and Butch. I took our maps, and they brought GPS coordinates. After three days, they had reached an impasse point and couldn't get out. This was only about 1000 meters from where the topos shows the terrain leveling out toward the Ranch. In their desperation, they left their tent up following that third night, so that it might be seen by someone searching for them from the air. They said they were spending quite a bit of time praying. On their 4th day, they crossed the river a couple of times, and finally decided to backtrack up the river about a quarter of a mile, climb up the east side of a mountain, and attempt to gain a ridge separating them from the flats below. They had only a couple of pint water containers each, so were limited on their water capacity.

After reaching the ridge, they rested, and then abandoned all of their remaining gear. When they reached the river again, they built a signal fire. They heard the helos and plane fly over, but were never seen, not even with the signal fire. They were at the fire when they made contact with their friends on the FSR radios.

Others committing: Mary Schmierer (Coordinator) Eric Toler, Dan Bishop, Dave Miles, Al Green, Linda Finco, Mike Franklin, Curtis Davis, and Janet Westbrook (2nd Coordinator).

Operation 2006-10 (Search) Lower Kern River Nov 18, 2006 Leader: D. Breitenstein

On Nov 2, 2006, Linda Finco was notified that Kern County would be conducting a search for still-missing bodies of drowning victims in the Lower Kern River on Nov 18. Linda could not go, and I accepted the operations leader position. Seven other members participated: DeRuiter, Doerr, Green, Loughran, B. Rockwell, and Sakai; Westbrook was the Coordinator. Byron Vink of the IWV team joined us for the drive over.

I picked up the Explorer and gear from the hut on Friday. We gathered at Crest Donuts at 0500 the next morning, and carpooled to the base camp at Democrat Point. The Sheriff had organized seven teams to cover specified sections of the river. The search was for a total of 5 missing persons, 2 from 2005 and 3 from this summer. CLMRG was organized into Team 2 and Team 3. Team 2: Eileen Loughran and Paul DeRuiter worked with Ed Mayer and Bill Chase. They were boated to their start point. Team 3 was subdivided into Team 3A (Tom Sakai and me with Aaron Lynam) and Team 3B (Al Green, Bob Rockwell and Dave Doerr with John Amoroso), one for river right and the other for river left. Janet Westbrook was the driver and radio relay. This team was assigned the section beginning at the Royal Flush portage.

The teams exited the canyon at 1500 and returned to base in time to debrief and partake of a barbequed dinner. Afterwards, we departed base and were home at approximately 1815.

2007 Operation Reports

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Operations Report (2007-01)

Alert – Piute Mtn Rd/PCT

April 6, 2007

At 1545 Friday (4/6/07) I got a call from Sheila Rockwell who was looking for a leader. Sgt Rhoades had called Bud Gates requesting that CLMRG have a team stand-by in case he needed help in finding an elderly Danish woman who had not returned from a hike with her husband on the PCT. I took the operation and Sheila started the callout. Myers, Bishop, and Green committed. Gates and Huey could go for just Saturday.

We got our gear together and waited. I tried to contact Sgt Rhoades on his cell phone at 1900 and again at 2000 to no avail. Finally at 2030, I called KCSO Comm Center and found out the woman had been found approximately 2 hours earlier and evacuated by KCSO helo. So, I had Sheila call the team to standdown. It turned out that Sgt Rhoades had no cell service at the mountain location and called me at 2100, when he got to a service area, to notify us to standdown.

The woman, name unknown, is from Denmark and was traveling in the area with her husband. They parked their car where the Pacific Crest Trail crosses Piute Mountain Road just south of Kelso Valley. They went for a hike on the PCT a ways then turned around. Somehow the two were separated and the woman took a wrong turn. When she did not return to the car, her husband called for help.
Tom Sakai, Operation leader

Operations Report (2007-02)

Transit – San Miguel/SLO Co.

May 8, 2007

At 0810 on Tues. 5/8, just as I was about to leave to get blood drawn, Bud called looking for an OL. San Luis Obispo Co. had requested mutual aid in searching for a 47 y/o despondent male who was a possible suicide victim. I told him I could take the operation in about an hour when my blood draw would be complete and I could have some breakfast. He got a little more info about the request and got Janet to initiate a callout. By the time I returned home at 0900m, she had only gotten Bob Rockwell and Bill Stratton, our most recent inductee. She had told them to meet at 1030, which sounded about right to me.

Because of some confusion, Bill and Bob were delayed in arriving at the hut, but we were able to get on the road by 1120. I called Sgt Rhoades to let him know we had started out and to confirm the request was still valid. We stopped for lunch at Lake Isabella then continued. About 1430, I again called Sgt Rhoades to reconfirm the search was still on-going. He told me that the searchers had found the victim, deceased. We were told to return home, which we did. We arrived back in Ridgecrest at 1700 and secured by 1730. A second group of Bishop, Franklin, and Renta, volunteered for Wed. if additional resources were requested.

Tom Sakai, Operation leader

Rescue, Mt. Muir, east buttress (2007-03)

May 27-28, 2007, OES# 2007LAW0400

The call came in from Inyo County Sheriff, Cpl Waterbury at 1440 on Sunday, May 27 requesting assistance for an injured climber on the east buttress of Muir. Cpl Waterbury had specifically asked for China Lake through OES. Inyo SAR was experiencing a shortage of personnel during the weekend. Bud Gates had replied and coordinator Mary Schmierer contacted

myself, Dan Bishop, to be the Operation Leader. Mr. Floyd fell 30 feet and suffered a shoulder injury. The injury occurred at 1230. The party did have a cell phone and were in contact with the Inyo Sheriff. Further information received from Cpl Waterbury indicated that the subjects were continuing to ascend the route. I was unsuccessful in my attempts to contact the subjects on their cell phone. Our team met with 3 members of the Inyo County SAR team at Whitney Portal. One of their members, Greg, remained to serve as Rescue Base, while the other two, Mike Fix and Dean Chavez were fielded with us. We decided, based on the information that we would take enough technical rescue gear to be able to raise or lower an ambulatory victim (one that only had a shoulder injury) and left the stretcher at the trail head. The plan was to head up the trail with hopes that the subjects would top-out on Muir and we would meet them on their descent. Otherwise we would get above Trail Crest, go to the top of Muir and descend to the subjects at first light. Eight of us, 6 CLMRG and 2 Inyo members, departed the trail head at 1850. Chavez stayed at Outpost camp, Fix stayed at Trail camp. Going up the switchbacks above Trail camp the subjects headlamps were seen on the buttress above 13000 feet. We were concerned that they were attempting to descend in the dark. 0200 at Trail Crest, Miles stayed and attempted to get voice contact with the subjects. The remaining CLMRG members were just below the summit of Muir at 0330. We bivied for about an hour until day light. Bishop, Franklin, Sakai and Gates began to descend to the subjects, Huey stayed on the top to act as radio relay and coordinator. The subjects were seen approximately 700 feet below the summit on the south side of the buttress. We used two 11mm static ropes to rappel, it took 3 difficult raps to get to them, lots of loose rock, the ropes were stiff, tangled easily and would get snagged when pulled through. In order to get to the subjects quicker, Gates rappelled the second pitch then tied off as Franklin lowered him another rope length down to the subjects. Gates reached them at 0900. Sakai, Bishop and Franklin eventually followed.

The victim was at an elevation of 13369 feet, UTM 11 384601E 4047373N (WGS84). Gates performed the medical evaluation and applied first aid. His assessment was that although the victim was stable and alert, he was suffering from probable broken shoulder, leg injury (fractured patella), back and neck injury, open wounds on his hand and he was unconscious for several seconds after the fall. The mechanism of injury was a 30 foot fall which occurred while simu-climbing up a loose chute. The victim, Mr. Floyd reached to test a hold which caused the boulder he was testing along with several surrounding rocks to let-go and fall, his partner was not injured. Based on this assessment, we informed Base that we would need a stretcher and back-board along with more personnel to evacuate the victim lower down to Trail Camp. Alternatively, extraction could be achieved with a helicopter /winch or long line since no suitable landing location was available.

At 1100 Base informed us that a National Guard helicopter out of Stockton would be coming to Lone Pine, ETA 1500-1600. Inyo member Chavez was sent down from Trail Camp at 1200. Huey and Miles were sent down to Trail Camp with the extra group and individual gear that was left on top of Muir, Inyo member Fix assisted. At 1500 Base requested that extra Rescue members descend. Huey, Miles, and Fix headed back to the trail head. We were also told of a delay in helicopter arrival. At this time additional Inyo Rescue personnel were departing for Lone Pine. As the certainty of extraction decreased, we began preparations for

spending the night. The victim re-stated his willingness to attempt a descent rather than spending another night. I informed him that it would be dangerous in his condition to attempt to rappel, even with our assistance, and that he could exacerbate his injuries. We were able to enlarge and flatten their original bivy site.

All that afternoon we observed clouds moving in from the west. Finally the temperature dropped and we were hit with a light snow flurry that lasted for about 30 minutes. To stay warm we put-on all the clothes we had. In addition, Franklin gave his sleeping bag to the Mr. Floyd.

At 1730 we received word that the helo departed from Stockton. Since we knew that sunset would be upon us soon, we coordinated with Base that if extraction was not possible then they would drop supplies to us to make the night more comfortable.

At last at 1915 a helicopter, CH-47 Chinook took off from Lone Pine with the intention of lowering the stretcher, we would package the victim, they would drop us the extra gear and then they would depart with the victim.

As the Chinook hovered over-head, a National Guard medic descended to us in a jungle penetrator. After a very quick assessment by the medic, Mr. Floyd told the medic that he was ok to ride up with no back-board or stretcher. The new plan is to attempt extraction of the two subjects along with the four CLMRG members. We were all happy as Mr. Floyd safely rode up with the medic. The helo then momentarily dropped down to 12k to reset their clock, and determined they will have 30 minutes of on-station time. Everyone was winched up individually; the medic and Bishop were last onboard at 2015. Sunset was at 2002.

An ambulance met the helicopter as we landed in Lone Pine and took Mr. Floyd. We met with Cpl Waterbury. He was very appreciative of our assistance. Meanwhile, Huey and Miles had driven down from the Portal, after receiving a complimentary burger from Doug at the Portal Store. They took us back to pick up the second vehicle at 2050, in the field for 26 hours. We stopped for a quick meal in Lone Pine and got back to the Hut at 2300.

Update on Mr. Floyd, his right shoulder was dislocated but x-rays showed no fracture. He will have to see a specialist because it did slip out after it was reduced the first time. His patella was fractured and will require further attention. No spinal injury, only bruising on his back, hip and calf. He also received stitches in his hand.

Post Script;

-Based on the information given to us we were expecting a mobile victim and thus the stretcher was left at the trail head. Perhaps a second team could have been standing by to bring the stretcher up but it would not have reached the victim until late in the day.

-We opted for a descent of the route rather than ascending because of the victim's condition and location on the mountain.

-Recommend that the Group purchases two Marmot Atom sleeping bags for operations such as this. They only weigh 1

pound and will be more likely to be added to already heavy packs.

-Inyo did a good job running Base; however, this would have been a good opportunity to have a CLMRG member who did not want to get fielded to be our eyes and ears at Base. Cpl Waterbury did a good job of relaying our status to the Coordinator, Mary, as well as keeping the subjects family informed. However, I did request a second CLMRG team but that was never forwarded to Mary

Notes: The base camp location coordinates were given in decimal degrees, but it was not specified as such. There was initial confusion because at first I thought they were UTM or DMS. I had to call Sgt Rhoades to clarify where we were supposed to go. Most of the driver authorizations in the Explorer have expired and all are signed by Wimbish. We need to get new ones.

Transit Operation Report (07-04) OES 2007-LAW-0405 May 30, 2007

Sgt. Rhoades contacted CLMRG at 1005 with a request to assist in a search for a missing 47 year old man on Mt. Baldy in San Bernardino County. The initial request was for a standby until additional information could be obtained. Carol Burge coordinated the callout and Finco, Toler and Rockwell committed to the standby. At 1045 the standby turned into an actual operation and we made plans to meet at the rescue hut at 1400. I contacted the POC for the operation in San Bernardino County and learned the search was for Kevin Gray who summited Mt. Baldy on Saturday, 26 May (verified by his name in the summit register), but had not been seen since, and he was not reported missing until he failed to show up at work on Tuesday. Since Mr. Gray hikes cross country quite a bit, they had some technical areas where they wanted to use MRA folks. We met at the hut and got our group gear together and after stopping at WalMart for AA batteries for the GPS units we headed out of town. No more than 2 miles down the road we got the call from the sheriff that Mr. Gray had been found. Apparently Mr. Gray fell during his descent on Saturday and broke his ankle.

CLMRG members: Linda Finco, Eric Toler, Bob Rockwell, coordinator: Carol Burge, Telephoner: Sheila Rockwell



Operation Report (2007-06)

Search; Tuolumne Meadow, Yosemite NP August 2-4, 2007, OES 2007-LAW-0446

Shortly after receiving the request from the Kern County Sheriff to support the Kern River search on Saturday, 4 August, Sgt. Gary Rhoades contacted CLMRG with an OES request to support an ongoing search in Tuolumne Meadows. The search was for an 80 year old woman and we were asked to be at base camp at 0700 on Friday, 3 August, for the briefing and team assignments. Mary Schmierer coordinated the callout and Elaine Riendeau assisted with the telephoning. Dan Bishop, Mike Renta and Linda Finco committed to the search. A message was left with Tom Sakai who was spending the summer in Mammoth Lakes. Bishop, Renta and Finco met at the hut at 2100 and drove to Mammoth to spend the night at Renta's condo. During our drive, Sakai called and committed to the search. He agreed to meet us at Renta's Friday morning at 0600 to drive with us to the search base in Tuolumne Meadows.

We arrived at search base at the Tuolumne Meadows Ranger station right at 0700. The search was for 80 year old Ottorrina "Torrina" Bonaventura from Schererville, Indiana. Torrina had hiked into the Vogelsang High Sierra camp with friends on Sunday, 29 July. On Monday, 30 July, Torrina and two friends were hiking up to Evelyn Lake (northeast of the camp) when Torrina remembered she left some peaches in her tent cabin. Torrina hiked back to retrieve the peaches while her friends continued on to the lake. When the friends returned to the tent cabins, Torrina was missing. The Park Service began an immediate hasty search on the trails in the area. Interviewing other hikers on the trails, it was learned that Torrina was seen that day near Babcock Lake hiking south. The reporting party (RP) stated Torrina was not sure where she was or which way she needed to go to get back to camp, but did not appear distressed or worried. This hiker continued his hike north. Later that day (still on Monday, 30 July) another RP spotted Torrina in the same area heading south. During the search a blood hound was used and a high probability area was established near Babcock Lake. The search on the ground with search teams and dog teams, and in the air with helos continued through Thursday, 2 August with no additional clues or sightings. Torrina was described as a small woman (5 feet, 112 pounds), but a very strong hiker. She hiked regularly and enjoyed out hiking her younger companions. Torrina did have some memory loss, a bad sense of direction, and would probably hesitate to ask for help and would keep hiking till she got to her destination.

Search base had a lot of teams in the high probability area, but had also expanded the search to include trails and areas south of Merced Lake, and north of Vogelsang. Our assignment on Friday would fly us in to Vogelsang. From Vogelsang we would hike northeast to Evelyn Lake and search the area around the lake and the drainage to the south of the lake. We got heloed in around 0900 and started our search assignment by 0930. We left our overnight gear at Vogelsang. We found a few items during our search, but no clues relevant to Torrina. We interviewed a few folks in the area and most were aware we were looking for Torrina and reported they did not see her. We finished our assignment and returned to Vogelsang where we were debriefed. They did not have another assignment for us, so we set up camp and relaxed until dinner. The high camp staff was providing dinner for searchers after they fed their paying customers. That evening there was some brief excitement with a young man who had the signs and symptoms of appendicitis and

who was eventually evacuated by helo from the high camp.

Saturday morning we were up by 0630. Hot drinks were served at 0700 by the high camp. We ate breakfast and then waited for our assignment. We had requested to be out of the field by 1600 hours on Sunday, so we could drive home. Originally they had discussed keeping us in the area to search quadrants south and west of Vogelsang, but they assigned our team to search a plateau to the west of Evelyn Lake and then continue searching down the Evelyn Creek drainage north to the intersection with Rafferty Creek and continue back to the Tuolumne Meadows Ranger station. We waited for the assignment to come in on the helo, but since the helo kept being diverted, the division leader at Vogelsang released us to begin our search assignment without the paperwork.

The plateau was fairly open and easy to get high coverage for detection. The Evelyn Creek drainage had a lot more foliage and trees and therefore the coverage was not as good. Other searches had been in the area and that was about the only sign we found. We did not see other people until we got the Evelyn Creek/Rafferty Creek intersection and the Rafferty Creek trail. We completed our search assignment at 1630. We debriefed and told base we were available for Sunday, but we needed to be out of the field by 1600. Since most of the assignments were at least 10 miles into the back country, and since the search operation would be winding down on Sunday, they felt they did not need any additional resources for Sunday and they released us to go home. We did find out that on Saturday, 4 August, another RP reported seeing Torrina later on Monday (30 July) heading north from Babcock Lake back towards Vogelsang camp. We stopped for dinner at Whoa Nellies and got back to Ridgecrest at 2300. As of Monday, 6 August, no additional clues have been found. Linda Finco, Operation Leader

Operation Report (2007-07) Search; Lower Kern River August 4, 2007

CLMRG was contacted 1900 on Thursday August 2nd 2007 to support a planned search on the lower Kern River on Saturday, August 4th. The search was to continue efforts since July 27th for Martin Silver, 63, who had fallen out of a raft in a rapid known as Dead Man's or Powerful Possum. David Miles was the operation leader with Carol Burge as the coordinator. Sgt. Tim Posey gave us the coordinates for the command post (N 35° 32. 171' W 118° 37.887 NAD27) and requested that we arrive at 0800 on Saturday. Because of another operation being supported by CLMRG in Yosemite, only David Miles and Dennis Burge were able to respond.

We met at the hut at 0600 on Saturday, arrived at the command post at 0730, and were fielded just after 0800. Miles and Burge were each fielded with a member of the Bakersfield teams to search the river's edge in two sections just below the Powerful Possum rapid. The Lake Isabella dam had reduced the water flow on the lower Kern River to assist the search effort. Around 0900 a body was spotted in the rapids from a helicopter just above the river. The recovery was completed around 1100. After lunch with the other teams in Lake Isabella, we returned to the hut around 1600. David Miles, Operation Leader

**Search/Recovery,
Mt. Jepson-Palisades Crest (2007-08)
August 15-16, 2007
OES# 2007LAW-0521**

The call came in from the Inyo County Sheriff on August 15th requesting assistance in a search for an over-due hiker in the Palisades area. Bud Gates had coordinated with Sgt Rhodes and contacted me to be the Operation Leader. Carol Burge volunteered to be the Coordinator. Five members, Bishop, Gates, Miles, Green, and DeRuiter, responded and met at the Hut at 0430 on August 16th. The team departed Ridgecrest at 0445 to meet with Inyo County Sgt. Harcastle at the Command Post located at the Big Pine ball field.

The information received was that the missing hiker, Henry Nguyen (39y/o) from Garden Grove, CA was on a 10 day hike starting on July 27th. A missing person report was filed on the 13th, seven days after his expected return date. His vehicle was found at the Birch Creek trail head on the afternoon of the 14th and the Inyo County SAR team conducted a day of searching on the 15th prior to calling for mutual aid.

Mr. Nguyen was described as being in excellent condition, always hikes by himself, and frequently takes multi-week trips. His trip itinerary for this 10 day hike was extensive. Between information obtained from his permits and from the reporting party, his mother, he planned on the following; Birch Lake, Birch Mt., Tinemaha Peak, Lane Pass, Disappointment Peak, Balcony Peak, Cirque Pass, Napsack Pass, Columbine Peak, Girard Peak, Isosceles Pass, Isosceles Peak, Winchell Col, Agassiz Col, Bishop Pass, Jigsaw Pass, Aperture Peak, Gendarme Peak, Picture Puzzle Peak, Contact Pass, Scimitar Pass, Palisade Crest, Mt. Jepson, Chimney Pass, and back to Birch Creek Trail head.

The Inyo Command Post search strategy was to transport teams, via helicopter, into the back country at various points along the anticipated itinerary in the hopes of finding tracks and/or other signs as to Mr. Nguyen's location. Unfortunately Mr. Nguyen did not appear to be signing summit registers. An Inyo team did report finding a probable bivvy location and tracks at Birch Lake.

I volunteered Dave to help augment a two man Inyo tracking team. They were the first to depart on a Forest Service helicopter. Our remaining 4 China Lake members were given an assignment to search the area around Scimitar Pass, north to Mount Jepson and south to Palisade Crest on both the west and east sides of the ridge. We utilized a California Highway Patrol A-star helicopter. I went with them first and we located a suitable landing site just south-west of the Pass at 12500ft. DeRuiter and Green were in the next load, followed by Gates. We were deployed by 1100.



We did locate and make note of boot prints in track traps at various locations along the Pass, although none were conclusive. At 1200 I sent Green and DeRuiter to search the ridge leading up to Mount Jepson while Gates and I tackled the ridge up Palisade Crest. Gates and I found a very airy ridge that offered good views of the western chutes. It was loose in some spots, I did bruise my leg during a down-climb. We continued along with the goal of reaching Gandalf spire, which is high point along the Crest. We had just roped-up and committed down a low 5th class pitch when we received word that Mr. Nguyen had been found at 1530. We were very close and decided to continue to the notch just before Gandalf with the hope that the descent down the west chute would be straight-forward. Unfortunately we were also shaded by the ridge and were unable to radio out to the Command Post, Relay, or any other Teams.

During this time Green and DeRuiter had completed their search of Jepson, no summit register was found, and were acting as radio relay for Teams further west of the ridge. Once the search had ended Green and DeRuiter were picked-up by helo at Scimitar Pass at 1700.

Gates and I continued our descent down the western chute. Unfortunately this chute was not like the others that we saw on our traverse. Very loose and very steep in places. After 6 rappels we finally emerged from the chute a little after 1800. Since we had cached our overnight gear up at the Pass we started the 700ft climb up. Still had no radio communication with any one. At 1830 a Forest Service helo appeared over the Pass and we vectored it to our location. They were able to pick us up as well as retrieve our gear at the Pass. We arrived back in Big Pine at 1900.

Sgt. Harcastle bought us a great dinner in Big Pine and then we were back at the Hut by 2300.

Note:

- Mr. Nguyen was found by Yosemite SAR, deceased from a fall on Isosceles peak
 - Flight suits are required on Forest Service and Park Service helicopters, Hi-Way Patrol does not require them. Need to add to our gear list to take.
 - No radio communications, had the Satellite phone in our Sheriff vehicle, should have taken it.
 - DeRuiter and Green were transported out before us. Good thinking for them to leave the stove at the Pass in case Gates and I could not get to the helo and had to spend the night.
- Dan Bishop, Operation Leader

Yosemite Valley Search (2007-09) September 25, 2007

Sunday afternoon I received a call from Sheila Rockwell, coordinating the operation, looking for an operation leader for a search in Yosemite Valley. I agreed to take the operation, and called Bud Gates to get further details. Bud had received a call from Sgt Mark Baldwin of the Kern County Sheriff earlier that day. Since the National Park wanted us to be on site by 0600 Monday morning, I decided we should meet at the hut at 1900 Sunday evening in order to get some sleep after the 5 hour drive to the valley. Bob Rockwell, Bill Stratton and I meet at the hut and headed out just after 1900. When I called the park earlier to get details, I learned of a second ongoing technical rescue on the face of El Capitan. We arrived at search base just after midnight, and on our way down to the valley had seen a park ambulance heading out with lights flashing. We found an old friend, John Dill, still working and learned that the ambulance was carrying out the just rescued injured climber lowered from the face of El Capitan. John showed us where we could sleep till the morning.

Things started to get busy just before six the next morning. We were informed in the morning briefing that this was the start of the third day of the search for Ronald Hoggard, a 58 year-old male missing since Friday in the vicinity of Taft Point. Ronald left his car to take a few pictures, and never returned. Nearly 70 searches were on hand for the search, but due to the good organization of the park SAR crew, all teams were given assignments and in the field by around 0830. The three of us were teamed with Charlie Sebastain of the Tuolumne Meadows SAR (TMSAR). Charlie was spending the summer climbing, on call for SAR in the park. We had just arrived and started our search grid when the call came in that Ronald had been found and was alive and well after spending three cold nights out in the wild. We returned to base, signed out, ate lunch and headed home. We arrived back in Ridgecrest around 1730 Monday night. Although we were not in the field long, the operation was Bill's first field assignment. We had trouble communicating on our radios with the park. John Dill is going to send us a list of the current frequencies used by the park, and I will get with Linda Finco to update our radios.

Tom Roseman, Operation leader



Operations Report (2007-10) Alert December 10, 2007

Rex Ribultan called me at work shortly after 8 am. A friend's daughter, who was 8 months pregnant and her family (husband and 2 year old daughter) had gone out on Sunday to Kennedy Meadows and were expected to be home at 5 pm, but they did not return. The father, Jeff White, had contacted the Tulare County Sheriff Sunday evening, but Rex was wondering if CLMRG had been called, or if there was anything we could do. I told Rex I would contact our SAR coordinator and we would offer our assistance to Tulare County. I contacted Sgt. Gary Rhoades and he said he would call Tulare County. Sgt. Rhoades called me back a short time later and said Tulare County would like our assistance and they were in the process of getting an OES number. I alerted our team and Janet Westbrook coordinated the callout with help from Sheila Rockwell. Mike Myers, Eric Toler, Al Green and I committed to the search. Shortly after 9 am I got calls from a few people (Sgt. Rhoades, Rex and Jeff) that the helicopter spotted the vehicle. The husband was outside the vehicle waving at the helicopter. Tulare County would coordinate the rescue and our assistance was no longer required.

Finco, Operation Leader



2007 Operations Summary

Number	Date	Type	Op Leader	Coordinator	Commitments	Members	Location	Subject Found Uninjured	Subject Found Injured	Subject Found Dead
2007-01	06 Apr	Alert/Stby	Sakai	S.Rockwell	Bishop, Myers, Green, Gates, Huey	7	Piute Mtn, Kern Co.	Yes		
2007-02	08 May	Transit	Sakai	Westbrook	B.Rockwell, Stratton	4	SLO Co			Yes
2007-03	27-28 May	Rescue	Bishop	Schmierer	Sakai, Miles, Gates, Huey, Franklin	7	Mt. Muir, Inyo Co.		Yes	
2007-04	30 May	Transit	Finco	C.Burge / S.Rockwell	Toler, B.Rockwell	4	Mt. Baldy, San Bernardino Co.		Yes	
2007-05	12-13 Jun	Transit	Finco	Westbrook	Miles, Myers, Franklin, Toler, Green, D.Burge, Doerr, DeRuiter, Loughran, Stratton	12	Kennedy Meadows, Tulare Co.	Yes		
2007-06	02-04 Aug	Search	Finco	Schmierer / Riendeau	Bishop, Renta, Sakai	5	Tuolumne Meadow, YNP			Yes
2007-07	04 Aug	Search	Miles	C.Burge	D.Burge	3	Lower Kern River			Yes
2007-08	15-16 Aug	Search	Bishop	C.Burge	Gates, Miles, Green, DeRuiter	6	Mt. Jepson, Inyo Co.			Yes
2007-09	25 Sept	Search	Roseman	S.Rockwell	B.Rockwell, Stratton	5	Yosemite Valley	Yes		
2007-10	10 Dec	Alert	Finco	Westbrook / S.Rockwell	Myers, Toler, Green	5	Kennedy Meadows, Tulare Co.	Yes		

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OPERATIONS BY TYPE

Incidents	Alerts	Mobilizations	Transit	Searches	Rescue
0	2	0	3	4	1

OPERATIONS BY MONTH

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
0	0	0	1	3	1	0	3	1	0	0	1

REQUESTING AGENCIES

Kern	Inyo	SLO	San Bernadin	Tulare	YNP
2	2	1	1	2	2

SUBJECT OUTCOMES

Found Uninjur	Found Injured	Not Found	Found Dead
4	2	0	4

GROUP DATA

Callouts	Total hours expended	Total vehicle miles	Average number of members per callout
10	680	1900	6



2007 ANNUAL REPORT

OVERVIEW

The China Lake Mountain Rescue Group (CLMRG) was involved in 10 search and rescue operations that logged 680 man-hours. We drove 1,900 miles.

The requests for support came from several different agencies. We had two requests from Kern County, two from Inyo County, two from Tulare County, two from Yosemite NP, one each from San Luis Obispo and San Bernardino Counties. The Group was again recertified by the National Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) for search again in 2007, CLMRG had an extensive training schedule for mountaineering, rock climbing, tracking, first aid, and other activities to maintain readiness for search and rescue operations. Below is a summary of the topics covered during this year.

During 2007, CLMRG public education activities in mountaineering and wilderness safety reached many people in the Indian Wells Valley and involved numerous volunteer hours. Several members went to the Girl Scout Primitive Encampment to talk about mountain safety and set up a Tyrolean Traverse for the enjoyment and education of the Girl Scouts. This year again, members of the CLMRG conducted a six week course open to the public in Basic Mountaineering with lectures, a day hike to peaks in the Southern Sierra, a two day overnight mountaineering trip, and basic rock climbing practices. Ten different members of CLMRG made public education presentations to approximately 2605 people. We received \$2,579 in donations from individuals, Mojave CFC and United Way. CLMRG attended all the monthly meetings of the Emergency Services Committee to support this community organization. We have presented the resources and talents that CLMRG can offer the community in the event of an emergency

TRAINING

Dave Miles (Chair)

CLMRG members participated in many scheduled and unscheduled training events. The major training events were:

- California MRA Summer Re-certification and two practices in preparation for the re-certification.
- Numerous tracking practices. Each member is required to have three hours of tracking practices.
- Four two hour classes in high angle rescue procedures
- A fall rock stretcher practice.

In addition rock climbing and mountaineering trips were made throughout the year.

This is a partial list of mountains, which were climbed by CLMRG members either as day or overnight training trips: Mt Shasta (Northeast face), Mt Tyngall (winter ascent), Mt Whitney (Trail, Mountaineering Route, East Face, East Buttress), Thor Peak, Mt. Morgan, Mt Gould, University Peak, Mt Langley, Mt Mendal and Darwin, Middle Palisade (one day), Mt Agassiz, North Palisade, Palisade Traverse, Lone Pine Peak (East Ridge), Temple Craig, White Mountain and Telescope Peak.

EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Werner Hueber (Chair)

The committee members are responsible to make sure that the assigned equipment is ready to be used in a search and rescue operation.

The major purchases were: Stretcher ropes (2)
Belay devices (Reverso)
Carabiners and runners

Haul bags (2)

Petzl ID (3) as a stretcher lower and raising device

Sleeping bag for a victim

Rescue Rigger software for evaluating rescue systems

Garmin Nuvi, a navigation system for our Group vehicle

Public Works provided the Group excellent support. We now have a new Master Cool for our hut where we perform training and where we store our equipment. Additional committee activities included maintenance of the Ford Explorer. The Kern County Sheriff covered the cost.

FIRST AID COMMITTEE

Gina Najera-Niesen (chair)

Each member has to be current in CPR and First Aid. We had several classes in CPR, Standard First Aid and Wilderness First Aid.

The FA Committee purchased AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Training material, FA/CPR/AED instruction material, replacement parts for the CPR training equipment and a Stethoscope/Blood Pressure Kit

SHERIFF'S COMMITTEE

Bud Gates (Chair)

We have several applicants going through the Kern County Sheriff's Screening process in order to join the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group. Because of location China Lake Mountain Rescue group is in a much better position to conduct search and rescue missions in such places as Kernville and Kennedy Meadows in Tulare County, Trona in Inyo County, and Red Mountain in San Bernardino County. Some progress has been made toward getting a mutual aid program in place with neighboring counties.

There is still a long ways to go. Our two big events for the year were the SAR Volunteer's Appreciation Dinner in March, hosted by the Sheriff and the Kern River search in November (the river is lowered and the sheriff coordinates the search for those individuals still not recovered from past years). At the Appreciation Dinner, Debbie Breitenstein was selected as the CLMRG's top contributor for the past year.

EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Janet Westbrook (Chair)

The Emergency Services Committee is a forum to keep local organizations that might be called upon during an emergency apprised of available resources and personnel. The meeting is attended by representatives of the various organizations and services within the city, community and county that could be called on to assist in an emergency. CLMRG attended all the monthly meetings to support this community organization. We have presented the resources and talents that CLMRG can offer the community in the event of an emergency. Janet Westbrook attended the Ridgecrest Police Open House to view the 911 call system.

2007 Highlights:

There has been significant progress in the City's Emergency Plan and a mobile EOS/communication vehicle. CERT training is being introduced to Ridgecrest - there is already a strong

program in Kern River Valley. Each month brings improvements to various organizations' emergency plans.



WEB PAGE

Janet Westbrook

The web page (www.clmrg.org) is kept current for points of contact and whatever else needs to be available to our members or other agencies. In the summer, all materials for the Summer Mountaineering Class are put on-line. News keeps our members up to date. Links are provided to other MRA teams and activities.

SUMMER CLASS COMMITTEE

Linda Finco (Chair)

Forty-two (42) students signed up for the seven week course on Basic Mountaineering and Mountaineering Safety. After our normal early attrition we had a steady group of 34 students participate in the majority of the course with 28 students completing their climbs, hikes, and check-off sheets and receiving certificates of completion. We use the class to also recruit new members and we had 4 students from this class begin their application process with the Kern County Sheriff.

Twenty one (21) rescue members participated in some way by giving a Tuesday night lecture, assisting with the Wednesday night climbing or our weekend trips. This resulted in over 400 hours of Public Education.

ASTM COMMITTEE

Dennis Burge

The purpose of our American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Committee is to be aware of, and participate in, the development of standards by ASTM's Search & Rescue Committee. I am a voting member, so I receive notices of ballots on proposed new standards. If needed, I then get inputs from other CLMRG members. Occasionally a standard is proposed that we feel would be detrimental to CLMRG and/or MRA. In 2007, most of the standards considered were Guides for Training of various levels of Search or Rescue Team Members. We approved of the effort, but refinements are needed and the process is continuing in 2008.

ARCHIVES

Al Green (Chair)

Committee was formed in January of 2006 with the goal to collect as much history as possible in digital form for easy recall. We have a 300GB external hard drive that can be connected to any computer with a USB port. At the present time (January 08) we have folders and data for the following:

Talus Pile: 001 to 077 (still working on scanning the old Talus Piles) and 100 - 140.

Minutes: From January 1993 to present.

Officers: Who & when – complete except for some really early ones.

Top Contributors: Who & when - complete

Honorary Members: Complete

Time in Group: Membership History, when joined & when quit. Bob Rockwell generated this and it is current.

Operations reports: A few from 1999 - 2005 (and the first one from 2006). It is going to be very difficult to get soft copies of old reports.

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Members: Carol Burge (Chair), Mary Schmierer, and Bob Rockwell

Presentations/Activities 2007

Date	Event/ Activity	Number Participants	CLMRG Member
April 12	Mojave Primitive Encampment	52	Tom Sakai Linda Finco Dave Miles Debbie Breitenstein Eileen Loughran Werner Hueber Elaine Riendeau
May	"Lost. ... But Found Safe and Sound" presentations	Eight schools with 2527 students A Cub Scout Troop	Al Green Eileen Loughran Tom Sakai Mary Schmierer Linda Finco Tom Roseman Tom Sakai Werner Hueber Carol Burge
December 12	A demo of CLMRG equipment	Cub Scout Troop 8 boys and 8 parents	Werner Hueber Linda Finco

Donations

Month	Benefactor
February	Mojave CFC and United Way
April	Karen Botham, Lyal & Marilyn Viers
May	United Way Sidney Busch
September	Mario and Yolanda Gonzalez In Memory of Dave Dykeman
October	Mimi Dow: In Memory of Robbie Dow
November	Lois H. Adamsen: In Memory of Carl Heller
December	John & Marilyn Wick James & Kathryn Wilson

Combined Federal Campaign Donors

Tamara Tucker
Jack Ingle

Donald Wooley
Peter Lesniak

MRA Recertification 2008

By Dan Bishop

The MRA Technical Rock Re-Certification Test went well this year. We Passed. In preparation we conducted a stretcher practice in the Alabama Hills on February 23rd. The following participated; Loughran, Green, Miles, Stratton, Finco, Doerr, Toler, Breitenstein, Roseman, Franklin, Sakai and Bishop. We found an interesting problem that proved to be a good practice for the actual recertification.

The following week we had two Hut sessions where we finalized the stretcher rigging procedure. On Saturday, March 1st, we met at the Hut at 0500, loaded up the gear and departed in 3 vehicles at 0515. Participates included; Loughran, Green, Miles, Stratton, Finco, Myers, Doerr, Toler, Franklin, Gates, DeRuiter, Renta, Dunn, Bishop, Breitenstein and Roseman (whom we met in Lone Pine).

After breakfast in McDonalds, I registered the Team at the Command Post located at the intersection of Portals road and Movie Road, while the Proctors received special evaluator training. We provided at first 2 then 3 Proctors, Myers who evaluated Placer, Gates who evaluated Ventura and DeRuiter who evaluated San Diego.

Our scenario started at 0900, with BAMRU and Placer Proctors of Denise Hart and Mike. We drove about a mile to our scene and was in verbal contact with our victim, Rich Rieber, by 0919. The Victim was located hanging in a corner of a near vertical slab about 25 feet above the ground. We were to raise the victim and lower to a different location as marked. We found a good location above the victim to set anchors. Roseman was part of our hasty team and rappelled 40 feet down to the victim at 0930. While Roseman was splinting the victims leg, the rest of our team began the set up. Green and Loughran set and manned the Belay, Miles and Toler operated the Winch, Doerr was an edge attendant, Breitenstein was the First Aid consultant/Command Post log recorder and Franklin was sent down as the Stretcher Attendant, Finco performed as the Safety Officer, while Stratton, Dunn and Renta provided additional support.



The Proctor introduced a knot in the belay and the main ropes. In spite of my objections of using real rather than a simulated knots, the Proctor insisted that a real knot be tied in the ropes. We ended up passing 5 knots in the raising and lowering processes and eventually ruined one of our ropes.

Franklin and Roseman packaged the Victim in the stretcher at 1030 and we began the raising at 1100. Proctor Mike insisted that we install a directional above the vertical lip. He felt that this would prevent a possible pendulum fall.

After a difficult raising, the victim was brought up to the top. We readjusted the anchors and lowered the victim to the designated location on the top of a boulder at 1230. We quickly tore down our equipment and returned to the vehicles.

We waited until 1400 for the Proctors to finish their deliberations. Our 1.5 hour debriefing was very thorough. The major emphasis was on our first aid techniques.

After checking out, some left for Ridgecrest, while some stayed for the BBQ sponsored and served by the Inyo Sheriff himself. The weather was perfect all day but did turn cold and windy at the end.

Lessons learned:

- Face shield for the victim
- EMT level first aid, to satisfy Proctors
- Improve first aid kit to prevent loose items from falling
- Loosen Stretcher jigger to prevent rope over victims face
- Bowstring patient tie-in works well
- Alabama Hills is an excellent location to conduct future stretcher practices
- Consider joint practices with Inyo team, per Roseman's networking



Training

Apr	2	(W)	CPR	
Apr	4-6	(F - Su)	The Thumb	Hinman
Apr	9	(W)	Girl Scouts High Line	Sakai
Apr	12	(Sa)	Rock Skills Class	
Apr	12-13	(Sa - Su)	Open	
Apr	14	(M)	Meeting	Gates, Gates, Gates
Apr	18-20	(F - Su)	Open	
Apr	26-27	(Sa - Su)	Charleston	Huey
May	2-4	(F - Su)	Tahquitz	Roseman
May	10-11	(Sa - Su)	Stretcher Practice / Rock Skills	
May	11	(Su)	Igloo Practice	Rockwell
May	12	(M)	Meeting	Carol Burge, Dennis, Eileen
May	16-18	(F - Su)	Sil	Huey
May	24-26	(Sa - M)	Darwin & Mendel	Rockwell
May	30-1	(F - Su)	Marsh	Rockwell
June	7-8	(Sa - Su)	Open	
June	9	(M)	Meeting	Finco, Miles, Debbie
June	10-11	(T - W)	Summer Class	
June	13-15	(F - Su)	East Face of Muir	Rockwell
June	17-18	(T - W)	Summer Class	
June	21-22	(Sa - Su)	Alternate for June 13-15	Rockwell
June	24-25	(T - W)	Summer Class	
June	27-29	(F - Su)	Black & Diamond	Hinman
July	1-2	(T - W)	Summer Class	
July	4-6	(F - Su)	Tyndall	Huey
July	8-9	(T - W)	Summer Class	
July	11-13	(F - Su)	Summer Class Day Hikes	
July	14	(M)	Meeting	??, ??, ??
July	15-16	(T - W)	Summer Class	
July	19-20	(Sa - Su)	Summer Class Overnights	
July	22	(T)	Summer Class Final	
July	23	(W)	Summer Class Party	
July	25-27	(F - Su)	Tuolumne Meadows	
Aug	2-3	(Sa - Su)	Open	
Aug	8-10	(F - Su)	Gilbert & Johnson	Hinman
Aug	11	(M)	Meeting	??, ??, ??
Aug	16-17	(Sa - Su)	East Face / Buttress Whitney	Toler
Aug	22-24	(F - Su)	Open	
Aug	30-1	(Sa - M)	Tuolumne Meadows	
Sep	5-7	(F - Su)	Indian Rock	Rockwell
Sep	8	(M)	Meeting	??, ??, ??
Sep	13-14	(Sa - Su)	Norman Clyde	Huey
Sep	19-21	(F - Su)	Open	
Sep	27-28	(Sa - Su)	Open	
Oct	3-5	(F - Su)	Open	
Oct	11-13	(Sa - M)	Yosemite	
Oct	17-19	(F - Su)	Open	
Oct	20	(M)	Meeting	??, ??, ??
Oct	25	(Sa)	CLMRG 50 th Anniversary	
Oct	25-26	(Sa - Su)	Open	
Oct	31-2	(F - Su)	Open	

CLMRG helps youth discover the great outdoors

On Saturday April 19th CLMRG provided and opportunity for two church youth groups to rappel and climb. About 20 youth from the Latter Day Saints 2nd Ward and St. Michael's Episcopal Church and 3 Royal Air Force enjoyed a great day at Fossil Falls. We left Ridgecrest at 0630 and returned at 1230.



JOSHUA TREE TRIP, March 7-9

Photo by Tom Roseman
(Left to right) Mike Derkey, Daryl Hinman, Carol Burge, Eileen Loughran, Debbie Breitenstein, Bill Stratton and Al Green

The Thumb By Daryl Hinman

On April 4-6 Rockwell, Stratton, and I climbed The Thumb at 13,388 ft. The weather forecast was for strong, gusty winds. They were not as bad as predicted, but we had gusts up to 40 MPH. On Friday we took 5.5 hours to hike the 4.5 miles to our base camp at 10,000 ft from the roadhead at 6,500 ft. About 75% of that distance was traveled on snow. We set the 3-person Moss tent up on snow in a small bowl to obtain shelter from the wind and used some nearby rocks for anchors. We melted snow for water.

We left camp for the summit at 0730 in the morning. It took 2 hours to hike the mostly traversing 2.5 miles to frozen Birch Lake at 10,800. After walking across the lake we worked up and across snow slopes to a rock band at 12,000 ft, which is the technical crux of the route. In the summer this is some loose third class, but for us this was just steep snow.

At the top of this we put on all our clothes, left our packs, and headed for the summit, which was less than 1000 ft above. I had four top layers, including down, and three bottom layers to keep warm in the wind even while climbing. The last 200 feet of snow was brutal as we intermittently punched through. At 200 lbs, Bob had it the worse. The rock scramble up the last 150 feet was a welcome relief. We reached the summit before 1400. The descent to camp went well and we were back around 1730, concluding a 10-hour climb.

We used crampons about 80% of the day. Much of the time we could kick good steps, but at times we were on points. We mostly climbed with two poles, but occasionally switched to an axe and pole as the run-out dictated. Above 11,500 ft the winds were very strong. At times we had to stop moving to avoid being knocked off balance because of the gusts. This was exciting on the steeper sections. We carried snow shoes to almost 12,000 ft, but never used them on the trip.



(Left to right) Bob Rockwell, Daryl Hinman and Bill Stratton



Daryl Hinman



(l-r) Tom Sakai receives an award for 25 years of dedicated service, Dennis Burge is recognized for an amazing 45 years of service and Linda Finco is also recognized for 25 years of faithful service.

Not in photo: Dan Bishop for 5 years of service, Eric Toler for 10 years of service, Elaine Riendeau for 10 years of service and Ellen Schafhauser for 20 years of service.

Mike Myers given High Contributor Award for 2008

The SAR awards banquet was held Friday, March 21st. In addition to time in service awards on the left, a special award was presented to the 2008 High Contributor. CLMRG President, Bud Gates, stated "Every time I go through the agenda at our monthly meeting one name keeps coming up again and again. He volunteers for many of the action items that come up during the meeting. He has been busy trying to get the lease renewed on the building where we hold classes and store our equipment. He has been instrumental in getting a call-out agreement with neighboring counties. He keeps our roster up to date. He works with all our new members trying to get them through the application process. In doing so I think he may have become quite a pain in Sgt Rhodes side but we're glad to have him on our team. These are only a few of the things that come to mind that he has been involved in. He even volunteered his home at the last minute to hold our February meeting even though he wasn't sure if he would be able to be there himself. I, along with several other members of the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group, would like to recognize Mike Myers as the high contributor this year."



Bud Gates (CLMRG President) and Debra Andersen were married on Saturday, March 29 at the Weldon United Methodist church.



NEW MEMBERS!

(l-r) Jeff Green and Joe Dunn. Welcome to the team!

Predictions that missed the mark

In 1894, the president of the Royal Society, Lord Kelvin, predicted that radio had no future. The first radio factory was opened five years later. He also predicted that heavier-than-air flying machines were impossible. Today, there are more than one billion radio sets in the world, tuned to more than 33 000 radio stations around the world. The Wright Brother's first flight covered a distance equal to only half the length of the wingspan of a Boeing 747.

In the early 20th century a world market for only 4 million automobiles was made because "the world would run out of chauffeurs." Shortly after the end of World War II (1945), the whole of Volkswagen, factory and patents, was offered free to Henry Ford II. He dismissed the Volkswagen Beetle as a bad design. Today, more than 70 million motorcars are produced every year. The Beetle became one of the best-selling vehicles of all time.

The telephone was not widely appreciated for the first 15 years because people did not see a use for it. In fact, in the British parliament it was mentioned there was no need for telephones because "we have enough messengers here." Western Union believed that it could never replace the telegraph. In 1876, an internal memo read: "This telephone has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication."

In 1943, Thomas Watson, the chairman of IBM forecasted that a world market for "maybe only five computers." Years before IBM launched the personal computer in 1981, Xerox had already successfully designed and used PCs internally... but decided to concentrate on the production of photocopiers.



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